

Toneyell; What is missing here? *League of Women
Voters*
Some
For many years I had been a member of the board of directors.
I had worked in both fields of my interest. I lectured and debated with
the National Womens Party who were sponsoring the Equal Rights amendment
which would, at least in those days, have wiped off the books all the
special legislation for the protection of women for which we had fought
for so many years; I worked also in the interest of the city of
Washington. *Taxation without representation was our slogan.* I headed a committee to make a study of the finances in
the District of Columbia, what taxes were collected and how, how the
money was spent at the dictates of the House of Representatives and the
Senate of the United States; I argued and fought both in the District
of Columbia and in the National Convention (biennial) conventions of the
National League of Women Voters for national support of the prime needs
Voteless
of the District of Columbia.

Therefore, on the day of the inauguration of Franklin D. Roosevelt,
I took our nine year old daughter with me to a special vantage point at
the corner of Fifteenth Street and Pennsylvania Avenue across from the
main Treasury building and a left hand turn upon the inaugural parade
route. My purpose being there was to distribute literature to all
passers-by or droppers-in to the office which the League of Women Voters
To distribute District of Columbia propaganda
had rented for just that purpose. I remember my daughter very well,
always a gracious and friendly child, she was a diligent worker that day
in passing out the leaflets and literature and thus she herself in a
sense was in the mainstream of the inaugural parade. I recall that
nearing the time when the parade had turned right on Fifteenth Street
and was proceeding forth, that I had taken her by the hand and crossed
Fifteenth Street and proceeded to the building on the north side of
Pennsylvania Avenue directly facing the parade as it would pass at that
in front of the Treasury Building. My office was at that
point within a block of the White House. I took the child to an upper
floor where there was a narrow terrace with a brick wall around two

sides of the building; and outside the windows we climbed through a window, and from this upper floor she was, with my help, able to elevate herself sufficiently over the brick balustrade to view at very close range the entire inaugural parade. She was then satisfied: she had seen an inaugural parade. Four years before, at the inauguration of Herbert Hoover, I had bought tickets for the grandstand in front of the Treasury Department in the same block where she was looking out from an upper floor of a building and my son, my mother-in-law, and I had sat through a drenching rain continuing for hours before the Hoover inaugural parade had reached that point. Therefore, both children felt that Mother had now done her duty, each had viewed an inaugural parade from one of the finest vantage points along the entire route. I remember that it took my fur coat many weeks to dry after the experience of sitting through the drenching rain of that day, March, 1928. Since the Washington weather was always unpredictable and likely to be as bad or worse in March than in January, the decision was made later to move the inauguration back to January. Of course, the great length of time between the election and the inauguration had begun in colonial days because of the great length of time it took the President elect and other people to travel the distances necessary in those days. With modern transport, the need for such a length of time had long since disappeared. Now-a-days, of course, in the electronic age, thousands of people attend the inauguration ceremony, with chairs placed on the Capital steps for the VIP's and on the surrounding grounds facing the steps for the lesser members of the public; who, even though it be a January day, go equipped with such preparations as if they were going to a football game in the late fall. Although for many years now, our home has been on Capital Hill within two blocks of the Capital.